

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

March 18, 1998 LB 1063

information that you need to make the best decision about what this 25 million dollar program should look like, if you right now know that you have every piece of information that you need, then vote against the sunset. I don't believe that I have all that information. I believe very strongly that we need to know what the costs are going to be. We need to know the numbers of kids. We need to know the best way that we can encourage a public/private partnership. We need to know all those things; that's why I supported the study and that's why I support the sunset because the sunset is the next piece to the study. Those who are opposing the sunset are making an argument for what we're going to do three years out with a whole lot more information than we have right now that I think you should use as an argument about why we are proceeding so hurriedly right now to elect to do a Medicaid-only option. The other thing that I would agree with Senator Wesely about is, yes, 17 states are looking at Medicaid only.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: One minute.

SENATOR BROWN: Some of them are looking at the possibility, just as I hope we do, of restructuring that system, but that means that the balance of the states are looking at some combination or private insurance only. That is a greater number than the 17. So, we're going to have a lot of information from externally, we're going to have a lot of information from within the state in terms of numbers. We are going to be able to make a decision in three years that is going to be much more well-informed than the decision that we are making today in haste, in response to wanting to have these kids have coverage as soon as possible. I agree with that. That's why I support 1063. I just think...

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Time.

SENATOR BROWN: I expect that we are going to move forward with greater thoughtfulness. Thank you.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Mr. Clerk, announcements and items for the record.

CLERK: Mr. President, Revenue Committee will meet in Executive